

Washington, DC - Yesterday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held an official hearing on the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007 (HR 2095). This legislation comprehensively addresses national rail safety concerns and was crafted in light of Subcommittee field hearings held across the country earlier this year, including one conducted in San Antonio.

Included in HR 2095 are provisions specifically addressing human error and fatigue, two factors that were identified at the San Antonio field hearing as significant threats to rail safety. In addition, the bill also requires the implementation of positive train controls, technology that will help curtail human operating error.

Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement on the Federal Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2007:

"While we've seen some progress in recent years toward improving the level of safety with which our nation's rail system operates, much remains to be done in order to ensure that the number of railroad accidents and incidents are minimized. This legislation takes the necessary steps to ensure that our nation's rail system meets strict safety and security standards," said Gonzalez.

"The alarming number of train accidents and incidents across the country, particularly in San Antonio, in recent years clearly demonstrate a need for federally mandated rail safety provisions and standards. I applaud this Subcommittee for taking the lead on this important legislation, and I look forward to working with members of the Committee as this crucial legislation moves forward," he added.

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